

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 1, 10, 18, 27, 35 and 44 as follows. The claims, as pending in the subject application read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for conducting a retrieval of document data, comprising:

storing means for storing the document data;

a receiver, for receiving from a user a request for retrieval of the document data, with the request including a password;

a transmitter, for transmitting the password, received by said receiver, to a managing unit on a network;

deciding means for, when said managing unit confirms the password transmitted by said transmitter, receiving a confirmation result from said managing unit to decide, on the basis of said confirmation result, whether or not the user is an authorized user;

retrieving means for retrieving the document data stored in said storing means according to a decision result obtained by said deciding means;

outputting means for outputting document data retrieved by said retrieving means;

issuing means for automatically issuing a new password in response to receiving from a user a request for retrieval of the document data by said receiver, wherein the user is notified of the new password if the user is authorized; and

registering means for transmitting the new password, issued by said issuing means, to said managing unit to register the new password as a valid password.

2. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said receiver includes a local receiver for receiving a request from the user, if a local user, and a remote receiver for receiving a request sent from the user, if a remote user, through a network.

3. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a control panel for performing a predetermined display in response to a key operation by the user, wherein said local receiver receives a retrieval request and a password inputted from said control panel.

4. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a reader, for reading an original to produce image information, wherein said local receiver receives a retrieval request and a password extracted from the image information taken by said reader.

5. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said remote receiver receives a retrieval request and a password sent from a terminal through a network.

6. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said remote receiver a retrieval request and a password extracted from image information sent from a terminal through a network.

7. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a facsimile receiver for receiving a facsimile image, wherein said remote receiver receives a document data retrieval request and a password extracted from an image which said facsimile receiver receives.

8. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said outputting means outputs document data in a different manner in accordance with whether said receiver behaves as said local receiver or said remote receiver.

9. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising a facsimile transmitter for conducting a facsimile transmission to a predetermined address, wherein said outputting means, when a retrieval request is received through a facsimile reception, transmits document data retrieved by said retrieving means in the form of a facsimile image to a retrieval requesting facsimile unit through the use of said facsimile transmitter.

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for conducting a retrieval of document data, comprising:

storing means for storing the document data;
a receiver, for receiving a request for a retrieval of the document data, including a password, from a user;
confirming means for confirming authorization of the user through the use of the password which said receiver receives;

retrieving means for retrieving the document data stored in said storing means on the basis of a confirmation result by said confirming means;

outputting means for outputting document data retrieved by said retrieving means;

issuing means for issuing a new password automatically in response to a receiving operation of said receiving means, wherein the user is notified of the new password if the user is authorized; and

notifying means for notifying the user of the new password issued by said issuing means in a mode corresponding to a mode taken for when said receiver receives said retrieval request.

11. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said receiver includes a local receiver for receiving a request from the user, if a local user, and a remote receiver for receiving a request sent from the user, if a remote user, through a network, and, for notification, said notifying means conducts a display on a control panel when said local receiver receives the request.

12. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said local receiver receives a retrieval request and a password input from said control panel.

13. (Original) An apparatus according to 11, further comprising a reader, for reading an original to produce image information, with said local receiver

receiving a retrieval request and a password extracted from the image information produced by said reader.

14. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said notifying means makes a notification through a network when said remote receiver receives the request.

15. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said remote receiver receives a retrieval request and a password sent from a terminal through a network.

16. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said remote receiver receives a retrieval request and a password extracted from image information sent from a terminal through a network.

17. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising a facsimile receiver for receiving a facsimile image, with said remote receiver receiving a document data retrieval request and a password extracted from an image received through said facsimile receiver.

18. (Currently Amended) A processing method of conducting a retrieval of document data, comprising the steps of:

receiving a document data retrieval request, including a password, from a user;

transmitting the password to a managing unit on a network;
receiving from the managing unit a confirmation result relating to validity of the transmitted password to decide, on the basis of said result, whether or not the user is an authorized user;

retrieving the stored document data on the basis of a result of the decision;
outputting a result of the retrieval;
issuing a new password automatically, in response to receiving from a user a request for retrieval of the document data, wherein the user is notified of the new password if the user is authorized; and

transmitting the new password to the managing unit to register the new password as a valid password.

19. (Original) A processing method according to claim 18, wherein the reception of said password in said reception step includes local reception for receiving a request from the user, if a local user, and remote reception for receiving a request from the user, if a remote user, through a network.

20. (Original) A processing method according to claim 19, wherein, in said local reception, a retrieval request and the password, inputted through a control panel, are received.

21. (Original) A processing method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of reading an original to produce image information, with said local

reception being conducted to receive a retrieval request and a password extracted from the image information.

22. (Original) A processing method according to claim 19, wherein said remote reception is conducted to receive a retrieval request and a password sent from a terminal through a network.

23. (Original) A processing method according to 19, wherein said remote reception is made to receive a retrieval request and a password extracted from image information sent from a terminal through a network.

24. (Original) A processing method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of receiving a facsimile image through a facsimile receiver, with said remote reception being conducted to receive a document data retrieval request and a password extracted from the received facsimile image.

25. (Original) A processing method according to claim 19, wherein said retrieval result is outputted in a different manner in accordance with whether said password is received by way of said local reception or said remote reception.

26. (Original) A processing method according to claim 19, further comprising the steps of performing a facsimile transmission to a predetermined address through the use of a facsimile transmitter, and, when a retrieval request is received by

facsimile reception, transmitting a retrieval result in the form of a facsimile image to a retrieval requesting facsimile unit through the use of the facsimile transmitter.

27. (Currently Amended) A processing method of conducting a retrieval of document data, comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for a retrieval of the document data, including a password, from a user;

confirming that the user is authorized, on the basis of the received password;

retrieving the document data, stored, on the basis of a result of the confirmation;

outputting a result of the retrieval;

issuing a new password automatically in response to a receiving operation of the retrieval request, wherein the user is notified of the new password if the user is authorized; and

notifying the user of the new password in a mode corresponding to a mode taken at the reception of said retrieval request.

28. (Original) A processing method according to claim 27, wherein the reception of said retrieval request includes local reception for receiving a request from the user, if a local user, and remote reception for receiving a request from the user, if a remote user, through a network, and the notification of the password is made by displaying the password on a control panel when the request takes place by said local reception.

29. (Original) A processing method according to claim 28, wherein said local reception is conducted to receive a retrieval request and a password inputted through the control panel.

30. (Original) A processing method according to claim 28, further comprising the step of reading an original to produce image information, with said local reception being conducted to receive a retrieval request and a password extracted from the image information.

31. (Original) A processing method according to claim 28, wherein the notification of the password is effected through a network when the request takes place by said remote reception.

32. (Original) A processing method according to claim 31, wherein said remote reception is conducted to receive a retrieval request and a password sent from a terminal through a network.

33. (Original) A processing method according to claim 31, wherein said remote reception is conducted to receive a retrieval request and a password extracted from image information sent from a terminal through a network.

34. (Original) A processing method according to claim 31, further comprising the step of receiving a facsimile image, with said remote reception being

conducted to receive a document data retrieval request and a password extracted from the received facsimile image.

35. (Currently Amended) A record medium storing a computer program to be run by a computer of a processing unit for retrieving document data, said computer program comprising the steps of

receiving a request for a retrieval of the document data, including a password, from a user;

transmitting the received password to a managing unit on a network;

receiving from the managing unit a confirmation result of validity of the transmitted password to decide, on the basis of the confirmation result, whether or not the user is an authorized user;

retrieving the document data, stored, on the basis of a result of the decision;

outputting a result of the retrieval;

issuing a new password automatically, in response to receiving from a user a request for retrieval of the document data in said receiving step, wherein the user is notified of the new password if the user is authorized; and

transmitting the new password to the managing unit to register the new password as a valid password.

36. (Original) A record medium according to claim 35, wherein the reception of the password in said receiving step includes local reception for receiving a

request from the user, if a local user, and remote reception for receiving a request from the user, if a remote user, through a network.

37. (Original) A record medium according to claim 36, wherein said local reception is conducted to receive a retrieval request and a password inputted through a control panel.

38. (Original) A record medium according to claim 36, wherein said computer program further comprises the step of reading an original to produce image information, with said local reception being conducted to receive a retrieval request and a password extracted from the image information.

39. (Original) A record medium according to claim 36, wherein said remote reception is conducted to receive a retrieval request and a password sent from a terminal through a network.

40. (Original) A record medium according to claim 36, wherein said remote reception is conducted to receive a retrieval request and a password extracted from image information sent from a terminal through a network.

41. (Original) A record medium according to claim 36, wherein said computer program further comprises the step of receiving a facsimile image through a facsimile receiver, with said remote reception being conducted to receive a document data

retrieval request and a password extracted from an image obtained through facsimile transmission.

42. (Original) A record medium according to claim 36, wherein said retrieval result is outputted in a different manner in accordance with whether said password is received by way of said local reception or said remote reception.

43. (Original) A record medium according to claim 36, wherein said computer program further comprises the steps of conducting facsimile transmission to a predetermined address through the use of a facsimile transmitter, and, when a retrieval request is received by a facsimile reception, transmitting said retrieval result in the form of a facsimile image to a request requesting facsimile unit through the use of said facsimile transmitter.

44. (Currently Amended) A record medium storing a computer program to be run by a computer of a processing unit for retrieving document data, said computer program comprising the steps of receiving a request for a retrieval of the document data, including a password, from a user;

confirming that the user is authorized, on the basis of the received password;

retrieving the document data, stored, on the basis of a result of the confirmation;

outputting a result of the retrieval;
issuing a new password automatically in response to receiving of the retrieval request, wherein the user is notified of the new password if the user is authorized;
and

notifying the user of the new password in a mode corresponding to a mode taken at the reception of the retrieval request.

45. (Original) A record medium according to claim 44, wherein the reception of the retrieval request includes local reception for receiving a request from the user, if a local user, and remote reception for receiving a request from the user, if a remote user, through a network, with the notification of the new password being made by displaying the new password on a control panel when the request is made through local reception.

46. (Original) A record medium according to claim 45, wherein said local reception is conducted to receive a retrieval request and a password input through a control panel.

47. (Original) A record medium according to claim 45, wherein said computer program further comprises the step of reading an original to produce image information, with said local reception being conducted to receive a retrieval request and a password extracted from the image information.

48. (Original) A record medium according to claim 45, wherein the notification of the new password is made through a network when the request is made by said remote reception.

49. (Original) A record medium according to claim 48, wherein said remote reception is conducted to receive a retrieval request and a password sent from a terminal through a network.

50. (Original) A record medium according to claim 48, wherein said remote reception is conducted to receive a retrieval request and a password extracted from image information sent from a terminal through a network.

51. (Original) A record medium according to claim 48, wherein said computer program further comprises receiving a facsimile image, with said remote reception being conducted to receive a document data retrieval request and a password extracted from an image obtained by facsimile reception.